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PROBLEMS OF FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

by A. Ishkov

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PROBLEMS OF FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Following is a translation of an article by A. Ishkov, Chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers USSR for the Fishing Industry, in the Russian-language newspaper Pravda, Moscow, 28 January 1963, p. 2.

PROBLEMS OF FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The Soviet people have accomplished remarkable work progress in the fourth year of the seven-year plan. The workers of the fishing industry - the seamen of the fishing fleet, fishing-kolkhoz members, workers and specialists of enterprises, and scientists - have also made their contribution to this national matter. Carrying out the decree of the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers USSR on measures for increasing the fish catch and the output of fish products, they have, ahead of schedule, on 15 December, completed the annual plan, and then also their socialist obligations. The country has received an additional 2,000,000 centners of fish. In comparison to 1961, the production of fish and seafoods was increased by 4,000,000 centners, and amounted to 41,000,000 centners, while in 1950 we produced, altogether, 17,500,000 centners of fish.

These successes were achieved as the result of the basic technical reequipping of the fishing industry. Now the fishing fleet has large vessels with unlimited cruising ranges, equipped with modern navigational and fish-locating apparatus, and with fish-processing and refrigeration equipment. The fish caught is immediately processed on board the vessel and is processed in the form of a packed product ready for use. This has permitted us to shift from off-shore fishing that was seasonal and depended upon various hydrological conditions to year-round fishing on open seas and oceans. At the present time here we are catching more than 80 percent of the fish and other seafoods. Ships of the Soviet fishing fleet are braving the waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans and the Antarctic.

The development of ocean fishing has required the centralization of the administration of technical policies in the fishing industry, and the amalgamation of technical and material facilities that were dispersed throughout different sovnarkhozes. After the example of the Far East, last year the Northern, Western, Caspian, and Sea of Azov-Black

Sea main basin administrations were organized.

The present volume in the production of fish products still does not entirely satisfy the growing needs of the Soviet people. The workers of the fishing industry have much to do in order to produce fish products of higher quality in a wider assortment.

Also, in the future of the development of ocean fishing, we must use the existing fishing and fish-processing vessels better. We have many crews who have entirely mastered the technique of maritime fishing and methods of locating fish, which makes it possible for them to exceed their assignments considerably. For example, the large refrigerated fishing trawler "Zhukovskiy", produced 80,000 centners of fish last year, while the average catch on board vessels of this type is 55,000 centners. The crew of medium trawler No. 226 caught 30,000 centners of fish, which is double the average catch. There are getting to be more and more such vessels. But, together with them, there are still quite a few ships that use their modern equipment poorly and are not carrying out the plans for the catching of fish. The widespread introduction in the fleet of the ways and methods of operation of the better crews and of the ships that are supporting the indices is one of the main reserves for a further growth in the fish catch.

The fish catch of the existing fleet can be considerably increased if the ships were located directly at sea for more of the time. To achieve this, we must reduce the time spent by the ships in port and at ship-repair enterprises, use the more efficient unit method of repair, and improve the use of the capacities of the ship-repair enterprises.

Together with this, a further growth in the fish catch and the output of fish products will depend greatly also upon the replenishment of the fleet with new ships. Before the end of the seven-year plan, more than 750 large fishing, fish-processing, and receiving and transport vessels are to be placed in operation. Our shipbuilding industry has successfully learned how to produce modern ships - large refrigerated trawlers, floating fish canneries, and refrigerator vessels. A large refrigerated trawler, with a long cruising range, will produce 55,000-60,000 centners of fish a year. If it transfers part of the catch to refrigerated transport vessels at sea, then the catch will be increased to 75,000-80,000 centners. We must build more ships of this type, and, together with them, an appropriate number

of transport and refrigerator vessels.

The world ocean has enormous supplies of edible fish, marine animals, and seafoods. Now we must organize the search for fishing regions in such a way that the fishing fleet will be constantly provided with a stable raw-material base, with a large reserve.

The Far East fishermen are to increase considerably the catch of sea bass and especially of sayra (Cololabis saira), develop the catching of tuna in the southern regions of the Pacific Ocean, and of horse mackerel and mackerel in the Sea of Japan. The Far Eastern fishermen have great opportunities for the development of seafood production: of prawns, oysters, squid, and also kombu /an edible seaweed of the genus Laminariaceae?, Anphelisia /anfel'tsiya/, and so forth.

The attention of the fishermen of the Western and Sea of Azov-Black Sea basins has been attracted to the development of fishing in the central and southern part of the Atlantic Ocean. New ships have begun to be supplied to them that are specially adapted for operations in tropic regions. This will make it possible to develop the mass catching of tuna and to expand the sardine catch.

A large source for increasing the fish catch is found in the inland water areas of the country. In recent years widespread measures have been carried out for improving spawning conditions and in the artificial propagation of valuable fishes, which has made it possible to increase considerably the supplies of sturgeon, pike-perch, and herring in the Sea of Azov, pike-perch in Lake Balkhash, and sprats in the Aral Sea.

Many regions of the country have favorable conditions for the development of pond fish-culture. In the past three years, the fish-culture establishments of Voronezhskaya Oblast have been growing 18 centners of fish from each hectare of breeding area, the fish-culturists of Belgorodskaya Oblast, 15 centners, and 16 centners in Ryazanskaya Oblast, while in Moscow Oblast they have been producing 13 centners per hectare. The Kolkhoz imeni Vladimir Il'ich of Moscow Oblast has breeding ponds with an area of 20 hectares, where they produce up to 250 centners of fish annually. The artel obtained 13,000-15,000 rubles of profit annually from fish culture. An important advantage of pond operations is their proximity to consumer regions, because of which railroad transport is freed from long and costly

shipments of fish from the surrounding water areas.

We need to build more state hatcheries to provide kolkhoz and sovkhos ponds with breeding stock. Such hatcheries, developed in each oblast, would become not only the material and technical base of pond operations, but also as a center for distributing advanced experience and as training centers for kolkhoz and sovkhos fish-culture personnel.

Especially favorable natural conditions for raising valuable fish are to be found in the lower reaches of the Don, in the flood plain of the Danube, and especially in the Volga delta. We could successfully raise fish in irrigation systems and on the flooded rice fields in the republics of Central Asia.

Now specialized sovkhoses have been created around the cities and large industrial centers that are occupying a large place in supplying the population with milk and vegetables. We should also create here large specialized pond activities, which would permit us to improve the supplying of fresh fish to the workers of the city. This is a matter that is not only for fishing-industry workers, but also for local Party, Soviet, and economic organizations.

In recent years we have achieved some progress in the mechanization and automation of the catching and processing of fish. More than half of the ships are equipped with hydroacoustic devices for locating shoals where fish congregate. More than 400 lines of complex mechanization for the catching and processing of fish have been introduced on board the trawlers, and also mechanized lines for catching fish by means of fish pumps with the use of electric light to attract the fish, and a number of electronic devices and other machines and mechanisms.

In 1963, 280 additional ships will be equipped with over-all mechanization devices for catching fish by means of trawling, purse seining, and drift nets, and about 400 vessels with hydroacoustic devices for locating fish. At the fish-processing enterprises more than a thousand machines will appear for dressing, dividing into portions, scaling (panirovka), and other operations for processing fish, as well as continuous-flow mechanized lines.

Together with this, however, we cannot pass over the serious shortcomings in the matter of technical progress in silence. Comrade N.S. Khrushchev, becoming acquainted

With the work of the fishing enterprises of Murmansk in July of last year, remarked that in the field of mechanization the fishing industry is falling behind the foremost branches of the national economy from the technical standpoint. In many operations - in working with fishing tackle and unloading snips, in sorting and dressing the fish, packing it in cans, and other operations - manual labor is still used.

An urgent task of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers USSR for the Fishing Industry, the main basic administrations, and the scientific-research and design organizations is to strive for a marked rise in the level of mechanization and automation in fishing and the production of fish products. We are speaking primarily of the introduction of improved fish-dressing machines, and of the mechanization of the packing of fish and fish products in cans and other packaging. Over-all mechanization and automation of production in the fishing industry is impossible without the most widespread application of electronic, automation equipment, and the achievements of chemistry and other branches of science and engineering.

In all of this, the workers of the adjacent branches of industry are called upon to play a large part. From the radio-electronics industry, the fishermen are awaiting the latest radio and electronic navigational and fish-locating devices. The shipbuilders must expedite the development of more improved fishing vessels, with automation of ship handling and the control of the machinery installations. The task of the instrument-makers is to give the fishing industry automation equipment. It is especially important that the chemical industry get things going in the production of synthetic materials for fishing tackle and the packing of prepared fish products. Shortages of these materials are now leading to the loss of hundreds of thousands of centers of fish and to premature wearing-out of fishing tackle.

* * *

Inspired by the resolutions of the November Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Party, the workers of the fishing industry are bending all their efforts to strive to fulfill and overfulfill successfully the 1963 plan, and to give the Soviet people as much more fish and high-quality fish products as possible.

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